

## **Executive Summary of Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

### **Key Information about Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument**

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation on September 18, 1996, as BLM's first national monument. BLM manages for multiple uses within the Monument (hunting, fishing, recreation, grazing, and valid existing rights such as oil production, etc.), while protecting the vast array of historic and scientific resources identified in the Proclamation and providing opportunities for scientific study of those resources. The resources identified in the Proclamation includes geologic treasures of exposed stratigraphy and structures, world class paleontological sites, extensive use of the area by ancient Native American cultures and thousands of recorded cultural sites, a rich expanse of human history, and five life zones of outstanding biological resources.

### **Summary of Public Engagement Prior to Designation**

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was designated in 1996 without public engagement. However, the area in southern Utah had long been considered, discussed and evaluated for the possibility of providing greater recognition of and legal protection for its resources. In 1936, the National Park Service considered making a recommendation to President Roosevelt to designate a 6,968 square mile "Escalante National Monument" (which also extended to portions of Bears Ears National Monument). A second NPS proposal proposed a 2,450 square mile National Monument. In the late 1970's the area was evaluated for its wilderness characteristics under FLPMA, and more than a dozen wilderness study areas, totaling about 900,000 acres were established in the area.

### **Summary of Public Scoping in Development of Resource Management Plan**

GSENM's Monument Management Plan included substantial outreach, public scoping and comment periods according to land use planning regulations and policies. Over 6,800 individual letters were received during the public scoping period and the comments covered nine broad categories; Access and Transportation, Biological Resources, General, Grazing, Lands, Recreation, Water Resources, Wilderness Study Areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Similar public outreach efforts are underway for the Livestock Grazing Monument Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Summary of National Monument Activities since Designation**

In the 21 years since Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was designated, a wealth of scientific knowledge has been discovered, with significant archaeological and paleontological discoveries on the Monument. The scientific research and discoveries were outlined and highlighted through a series of 3 "Learning from the Land" Symposiums, in 1997, 2006 and 2016. ( included in the Symposium folder on the google drive). A Monument Management Plan was completed in 2000, ensuring continued management of multiple uses and valid existing

rights. GSENM also provides visitor services and information at four visitor centers in neighboring towns to support the increasing visitor and commercial use on the Monument and to foster tourism in gateway communities. A summary of GSENM activities for 2016 can be found in the Monument Manager's Report in the Background folder on the google drive.

### **Summary of Activities in Area for 5 years Preceding Pre-Designation**

Prior to the 1996 designation of GSENM, the public land was managed by the Bureau of Land Management, within two resource areas: the Kanab Resource Area and the Escalante Resource Area. The lands were used primarily for scientific study, primitive recreation and livestock grazing.

### **Summary of Available Economic Information since Designation**

Economic research by external parties has been completed and includes GSENM specific information in the Headwaters Economic Report, and a research paper written in 2004 by Dr. Steven Burr, Director of the Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism at Utah State University titled "Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Front Country Visitors' Characteristics, Monument Management and Community Services Impressions, and Expenditures in the Monument Area." In addition, a Socioeconomic Baseline Report was completed for the Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment EIS in 2015. These documents, along with additional economic research, are provided in the Economic Folder in Google Drive.

### **Summary of Any Boundary Adjustments since Designation**

Since designation, there were two congressional boundary adjustments as well as an exchange of all of the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) lands within the Monument boundaries. When the Monument was designated, it encompassed 1,878,465 acres. In 1998, H.R. 3910, the Automobile National Heritage Area Act (Public Law 105-355), resulted in a boundary change to 1,884,011 acres, a net gain of approximately 5,546 acres. In 2009, H.R. 377, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (Public Law 111-11), directed a boundary change and purchase for the Turnabout Ranch, resulting in the removal of approximately 25 acres from GSENM. The Utah Schools and Land Exchange Act of 1998 exchanged State/SITLA lands within the boundaries of GSENM. The federal government received all State inholdings in GSENM (176,699 acres) while the State received \$50 million in cash plus \$13 million in unleased coal and approximately 139,000 acres, including mineral resources. The federal government received additional State holdings within other NPS and USFS units as part of the same exchange.